

Community News

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“Cooling Off” at Camp Roberts



Photo by Bob Sarber

The first-ever "Cooling Off" at Camp Roberts allowed the public to spend a casual and fun afternoon with soldiers and their families on Saturday. Youths who attended the event delighted in the various wet activities that were set up on the base's athletic field.

Bob Sarber
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Camp Roberts hosted its first-ever "Cooling Off" day at the base on Saturday when it invited the public to join National Guard soldiers and their families for a late afternoon and evening of fun and relaxation.

As respite from the scorching summer heat, camp personnel laid

out a water slide, slip-n-slide and wading pool obstacle course on the base's athletic field, and children, particularly, gladly took advantage of the opportunity to get wet.

"This is the first one, but we're going to try to have them regularly," explained event director Clair Ruffner, the family assistance coordinator at Camp Roberts. "This is for military families and the community — we want to bring them

together to have fun."

A barbecue followed the afternoon events, then local rock band Keith Perry and Crucial Point performed into the evening.

Col. Keith Lochner, director of operations at Camp Roberts didn't have his Southern California-based family to share the day with, but he nonetheless appreciated what the event did for soldiers on the base.

"This is great that they did this,"

he said.

A number of sponsors made the "Cooling-Off" event possible by contributing toward the cost of hosting it and by donating goods and services. Sponsors included VFW, Tri-Care, USAA Insurance, NGAC Insurance, Veteran's Administration and 4H, and for much of the afternoon, the guy passing out iced beverages from his service truck was the most popular.